Marketing to the Government: Ethics, Protests & FOIA Considerations

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WACO - Who We Serve

- Field Office of the Office of the Counsel to the Commandant of the Marine Corps within the Department of the Navy General Counsel Office.
- Provide legal support to all Marine Corps Bases west of the Mississippi. Legal specialties include Contracts, Fiscal, FOIA, Labor, Environmental, MCCS (formerly MWR), Land Use and Water Rights Law sections.

Gifts as a marketing tool

- The basic rule: An employee shall not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, a gift from a prohibited source or given because of the employee's official position.
- Exceptions:
  - Gifts of $20 or less: Unsolicited gifts (NOT cash) with a market value of $20 or less per source and per occasion are permissible so long as the total value of all gifts received from a single source during a CY does not exceed $50.

Handouts

- Ethics – Gifts
- Agency Protests
  - How to file
  - When to file
  - Basis for protest
  - Small Business size protests
- Freedom of Information Act Procedures (FOIA)

Question & Answer Topics?

- Possible Q&A topics to raise:
  - Solicitation questions/protests
    - Small Business Size Protests
    - Agency Protests
  - Contract Disputes
  - FOIA – Info protected from release
  - Understanding solicitation evaluations
  - Vender Terms & Conditions

- Theresa Young – Western Area Counsel Office